

**MINUTES OF
MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018**

The Mississippi Tort Claims Board (Board) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 138, Woolfolk State Office Building; 501 North West Street; Jackson, Mississippi.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Whitley, Onetta; Acting Chairman; Deputy Attorney General, Representing Attorney General Jim Hood
Jackson, Laura; Executive Director, MS Department of Finance & Administration
Kelsey, Christina; Representing Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney
Ouzts, Lisa; Representing MS Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Gary Rikard
Sims, Trae; Representing Public Safety Commissioner Marshall Fisher
Williams, Michelle; Representing State Treasurer Lynn Fitch

Also present were:

Buford, David; Institutions of Higher Learning
Donaldson, Bruce; Tort Claims Board
Kelly, Trina; Tort Claims Board
Logan, Jim; Tort Claims Board
McElroy, Lea Ann; Tort Claims Board
Milner, Steve; Tort Claims Board
Sweat, Wade; Attorney General's Office
Wells, Lisa; Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.
Wells, Teresa; Tort Claims Board
Wilson, Jeff; Trinity Capital

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Mrs. Jackson to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2018, meeting. Mrs. Williams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

In Old Business, Mrs. McElroy reviewed the final summary of relative legislation passed during the 2018 Legislative Session.

In New Business, Mrs. McElroy presented a recommendation for renewal of the actuarial contract with Chris Burkhalter of Bickerstaff Whatley Ryan & Burkhalter. His current contract expires June 30, 2018. The new contract is for a period of three (3) years with the option to renew for one (1) additional year. Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Mrs. Ouzts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Logan presented the financial report for fiscal year 2018 through April 30, 2018. The Cash Flow Analysis details assessment revenue of \$4.7 million (100% of the total assessment). Expenditures total \$5.1 million. Totals funds of \$15.6 million include \$3.3 million cash in the Treasury, \$12.2 million in investments, and \$117,324 in the TPA account. Mr. Logan advised that we have \$8 million in reserves and \$7.6 million in unencumbered funds. Claim payments for the fiscal year total \$1.8 million and legal expenses total just under \$650,000. We have created 804 claims so far this fiscal year, and we have 532 open claims. The average claim paid is \$3,444 and the average reserve for open claims is just over \$15,000. The Budget Comparison Report details expenditures by budget category, showing we have expended just over \$5 million from the fund this fiscal year-to-date.

Mr. Wilson presented the investment report through April 2018. We have invested \$12.2 million with a market value just under \$11.9 million. As rates continue to rise, the market value may drop off a little more through the calendar year. The FY2018 internal rate of return is at 1.5%, and we anticipate being just shy of 2% by June 30. Current book yield is at 2.22%. Fiscal year-to-date earnings are just over \$165,000 and we should see about \$200,000 by fiscal year end. Looking at the performance of the portfolio in comparison to the custom index, we lag in internal rate of return (ability to generate income vs. index) but outperform it in total return basis (market value and income combined). This makes sense looking at the composition of the portfolio, where we've kept \$200,000 in cash and we're a \$1 million under plan in mortgage-backed securities. By staying under in mortgage-backed securities, it allows us to outperform in total return.

Mr. Milner reported on his Loss Control activities since the last Board meeting, noting that the Attorney General's Office had reached out to us to provide Defensive Driving training. Steve will offer two classes, one in May and the other in June.

Mrs. McElroy presented three (3) attorneys for inclusion on the approved Attorney Register: Bo R. Brock of Brock Deaton Law Firm in Tupelo; R. Gordon Sproule, Jr. of Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP in Birmingham, AL (licensed in Mississippi); and Paul B. Watkins, Jr. of Mayo Mallette, PLLC in Oxford. All three meet the eligibility requirements of the Board and staff recommends approval. Mrs. Jackson moved to approve and Mrs. Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McElroy presented a list of 18 political subdivisions with the recommendation that all be approved for renewal of Certificates of Coverage. Mrs. Jackson made a motion to approve the list and Mrs. Williams seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

There was no Claims Report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.



STEVE EDDS, CHAIRMAN



MIKE CHANEY, BOARD MEMBER



LYNN FITCH, BOARD MEMBER



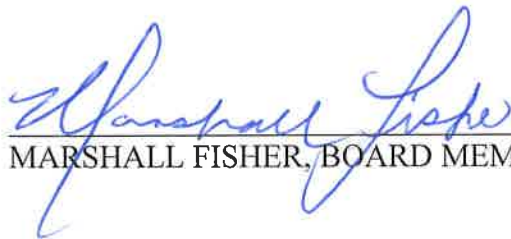
JIM HOOD, BOARD MEMBER



LAURA D. JACKSON, BOARD MEMBER



GARY RIKARD, BOARD MEMBER



MARSHALL FISHER, BOARD MEMBER

Mississippi Tort Claims Board
May 10, 2018 - 1:30pm
Conference Center North, Room 138
First Floor, Woolfolk Building
Jackson, Mississippi

ATTENDANCE LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT/COMPANY</u>
Steven Milner	TCB
David Buford	ITIL
JEFF Wilson	Trinity Capital
Jim Logan	TCB
Chetta Whitely	AG
Lisa Duzts	MDEQ
Teresa Wells	TCB
Wade Sweat	MDOT
Lisa Wells	COMBI
Stacy	TCB
Michelle Willin	OST
Shirley Kelly	TCB
TRAE Sims	MAPS
Gutierrez Kelly	MID
Laura Jackson	DEA

Mississippi Tort Claims Board
Thursday, May 10, 2018 – 1:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- I.** Approval of Minutes
 - A. March 8, 2018

- II.** Old Business
 - A. Legislative Update

- III.** New Business
 - A. Actuary Contract – Bickerstaff, Whatley, Ryan & Burkhalter

- IV.** Financial Reports
 - A. Financial Report – Jim Logan
 - B. Investment Report – Jeff Wilson

- V.** Loss Control – Steve Milner

- VI.** Attorney General’s Report – Lea Ann McElroy

- VII.** Certificates of Coverage – Lea Ann McElroy

- VIII.** Claims Report – Bruce Donaldson

- IX.** Adjournment

Next meeting date and time: July 12, 2018 – 1:30 P.M.
Meeting location: Suite 138, Conference Center North, Woolfolk Building, Jackson, MS

**MINUTES OF
MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018**

The Mississippi Tort Claims Board (Board) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 138, Woolfolk State Office Building; 501 North West Street; Jackson, Mississippi.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Lanford, Mike; Acting Chairman; Deputy Attorney General, Representing Attorney General Jim Hood
Jackson, Laura; Executive Director, MS Department of Finance & Administration
Kelsey, Christina; Representing Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney
Williams, Michelle; Representing State Treasurer Lynn Fitch
Younger, Jim; Representing Public Safety Commissioner Marshall Fisher

Also present were:

Donaldson, Bruce; Tort Claims Board
Kelly, Trina; Tort Claims Board
Logan, Jim; Tort Claims Board
McElroy, Lea Ann; Tort Claims Board
Milner, Steve; Tort Claims Board
Sweatt, Wade; Attorney General's Office
Wells, Lisa; Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.
Wilson, Jeff; Trinity Capital

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the January 11, 2018, meeting were approved by common consent.

In Old Business, Mrs. McElroy reviewed a summary of legislation introduced to-date that seeks to amend the Tort Claims Act.

There was no New Business.

Mr. Logan presented the financial report for fiscal year 2018 through February 28, 2018. The Cash Flow Analysis details assessment revenue of \$4.4 million (of the total assessment of \$4.7 million). Expenditures total \$4.3 million and include \$1.6 million in claims and just over \$500,000 in legal expenses. Totals funds include \$3.6 million cash in the Treasury, \$12 million in investments, and \$140,000 in the TPA account. Mr. Logan advised that we have \$7.3 million in reserves and \$8.5 million in unencumbered funds. The average claim paid is \$3,447 and the average reserve for open claims is just under \$15,000. The Budget Comparison Report details expenditures through two-thirds of the fiscal year by budget category, showing we have expended just over 40% of our total budget.

Mr. Wilson presented the investment report through February 2018. We have invested just over \$12 million with a market value just under \$12 million. The FY2018 internal rate of return is at 1.06%, and we could see 2% by the end of the fiscal year. Fiscal year-to-date earnings are just over \$116,000 and we should see about \$200,000 by fiscal year end.

Mr. Milner reported on his Loss Control activities since the last Board meeting, noting a successful meeting with the Special Assistant Attorney General and Nursing Home Coordinator with the State Veterans Affairs Board following the January mediation settlement of the Hughes claim, and the graduation of the latest Highway Patrol Cadet Class.


Mrs. McElroy presented one (1) attorney for inclusion on the approved Attorney Register: Christopher N. Bailey of Jacks, Griffith & Luciano, P.A. in Cleveland. Mr. Bailey does meet the eligibility requirements of the Board and staff recommends approval. Mrs. Jackson moved to approve and Mrs. Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McElroy presented a list of 23 political subdivisions with the recommendation that all be approved for renewal of Certificates of Coverage. Mrs. Jackson made a motion to approve the list and Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Under Claims Report Mr. Donaldson updated the Board on the denial of the claim of Joseph Gill.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

STEVE EDDS, CHAIRMAN



MIKE CHANEY, BOARD MEMBER



LYNN FITCH, BOARD MEMBER


JIM HOOD, BOARD MEMBER


LAURA D. JACKSON, BOARD MEMBER


GARY RIKARD, BOARD MEMBER


MARSHALL FISHER, BOARD MEMBER

Tort Claims Act Legislation Summary

2018 Legislative Session

Bill No.	Introduced By	Last Action	MTCA Reference	Description	Notes
SB2988	Clarke Hopson Burton Hill Wilemon	Approved by Governor (4/11)		FY19 Appropriation \$6,522,500	Same as our request Conference Report #2 = \$6,528,028
HB1202	Chism	Approved by Governor (4/13)	63-3-205 63-3-517 63-7-19	Kaelin Kersh Act Requires emergency vehicles to use siren AND lights when traveling at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit	You may remember seeing video of the accident that killed Kaelin Kersh at our November Board meeting. Conference cut this back to a requirement to use lights when traveling 30 mph over posted speed limit.

as of 04/25/2018 3:00pm



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT

MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD
STEPHEN C. EDDS, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner
Insurance Department
MARSHALL L. FISHER, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
LYNN FITCH, Treasurer
Department of Treasury

JIM HOOD, Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
LAURA D. JACKSON, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration
GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

MEMORANDUM

TO: MS Tort Claims Board
FROM: Lea Ann McElroy
DATE: May 10, 2018
RE: Actuary Contract

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of contract renewal as noted.

Chris Burkhalter of Bickerstaff Whatley Ryan & Burkhalter – This contract continues our relationship with Mr. Burkhalter for actuarial services. His current contract is a one year renewal which expires June 30, 2018. This new contract is for a period of three years, with the option to renew for one additional year. Terms are as follows:

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	\$11,000
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	\$11,500
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	\$12,000
1-year option through June 30, 2022	\$12,000

Work on other projects as directed will be billed at \$200/hour.

MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD
Combined Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2018
Fund 3080

-----CASH FLOW ANALYSIS-----

	March	April	Year-To-Date
REVENUE:			
Assessments Received	303,114.63	3,894.31	4,698,835.54
Interest	2,451.66	3,021.94	27,355.72
Investment Interest	24,824.90	23,653.47	165,035.47
Sale of Scrap	150.00	0.00	1,847.00
Transfer In Funds	250,000.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 580,541.19	\$ 30,569.72	\$ 6,643,073.73
EXPENSES:			
Claim Losses - TCB and TPA	49,603.74	172,878.42	1,870,333.63
Legal Expenses - TCB and TPA	91,440.60	46,485.64	647,180.06
Other Expenses - TCB and TPA	1,907.96	844.30	16,809.21
Administrative Expenses Paid	109,626.59	56,747.98	814,564.16
Transfer of Funds - Out	250,000.00	0.00	1,750,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 502,578.89	\$ 276,956.34	\$ 5,098,887.06
FUNDS ON HAND:			
Beginning Balance	\$ 15,914,443.48	\$ 15,922,405.78	
Revenue	580,541.19	30,569.72	
Expenses	(502,578.89)	(276,956.34)	
Adjustments	0.00	0.00	
Total Funds	\$ 15,992,405.78	\$ 15,676,019.16	
Cash in Treasury	\$ 3,492,790.86	\$ 3,391,200.48	
Investment in Treasury	\$ 12,153,840.82	\$ 12,237,494.29	
TPA Trustmark Bank Balance	345,774.10	117,324.39	
Total Funds By Account	\$ 15,992,405.78	\$ 15,746,019.16	
Less Reserves	\$ 8,051,740.91	\$ 8,079,289.96	
Unencumbered Funds Available	\$ 7,940,664.87	\$ 7,666,729.20	

-----CLAIMS/RESERVES DETAIL (Year-To-Date)----

	Tort Board	Mgt. Services	TOTAL
Claims - Payments	\$ 85,834.93	\$ 1,784,498.70	\$ 1,870,333.63
Claims - Legal Expenses	639,974.65	7,205.41	647,180.06
Claims - Other Expenses	-	16,809.21	16,809.21
Total Paid Out to Date	\$ 725,809.58	\$ 1,808,513.32	\$ 2,534,322.90
OUTSTANDING RESERVES	414,274.69	7,665,015.27	8,079,289.96
Total Claims & Reserves	\$ 1,140,084.27	\$ 9,473,528.59	10,613,612.86
Number of Claims Created	441	363	804
Number of Claims Paid	255	288	543
Total Open Claims	205	327	532
AVG. CLAIM \$ / # CLAIMS PAID	\$336.61	\$6,196.18	\$ 3,444.44
AVG. RESERVE / OPEN CLAIMS	\$2,020.85	\$23,440.41	\$ 15,186.64

NOTE: Information represents combined operations for Treasury Fund 3080 and the Trustmark account (utilized by CCMSI).

MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD

Budget Comparison Report

Treasury Fund 3080

Fiscal Year 2018

Expenses:	Total Budget	March 2018	April 2018	Year To Date Expenditures	Ending Balance	Percent Expended
A1-Salaries	\$ 560,000.00	\$ 46,248.63	\$ 46,248.68	\$ 463,086.10	\$ 96,913.90	82.69%
A2-Travel	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	691.85	3,308.15	17.30%
B-Contractual	1,650,000.00	154,556.37	56,698.27	984,683.87	665,316.13	59.68%
C-Commodities	7,000.00	257.64	245.02	5,958.74	1,041.26	85.12%
D2-Capital Outlay	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%
E-Subsidies	4,300,000.00	256,741.12	5,299.26	1,835,834.93	2,464,165.07	42.69%
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 6,522,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 457,803.76</u>	<u>\$ 108,491.23</u>	<u>\$ 3,290,255.49</u>	<u>\$ 3,232,244.51</u>	<u>50.44%</u>
TPA Expended		<u>44,775.13</u>	<u>168,465.11</u>	<u>1,808,631.57</u>		
TOTAL Expended		<u>\$ 502,578.89</u>	<u>\$ 276,956.34</u>	<u>\$ 5,098,887.06</u>		

TRINITY

TRINITY CAPITAL INVESTORS

May 1, 2018

Ms. Lea Ann McElroy
Mississippi Tort Claims Board
P O Box 267
Jackson, MS 39205-0267

Re: April 2018 Portfolio Highlights

Total Portfolio	Book Value	\$12,208,299
	Market Value	\$11,897,923
FY 2018 Internal Rate of Return		1.46%
Current Portfolio Book Yield		2.22%
Market Yield		2.98%
Weighted Average Life		Approximately 3.5 years
Fiscal YTD 2018 Earnings		165,035
Accrued Interest		52,898

1675 Lakeland Drive Suite 400 Jackson, MS 39216
Telephone 601-956-3511
Fax 601-956-3513

PERFORMANCE REPORT
State of Mississippi Tort Claims

2018 Fiscal year
April 2018

Portfolio Market Value June 30, 2017	11,906,707
Contributions	
Withdrawals	
Realized Gains	
Unrealized Gains	-297,387
Interest / Dividends	165,035
Portfolio Market Value April 30, 2018	11,910,912
accrued interest	52,898
Average Capital	12,115,409
Total Gain	165,035
FY 2018 IRR	1.46% *
FY 2018 Total Return	0.35%
Current Portfolio Yield	2.22%

Investment Performance Comparison

	IRR	TRA
Account	1.460%	0.35%
Custom Index	2.28%	-1.06%

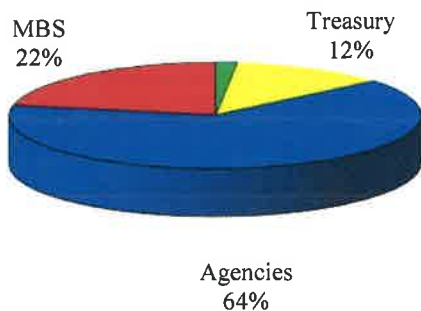
* weighted average life = 3 years

Trinity Capital Investors

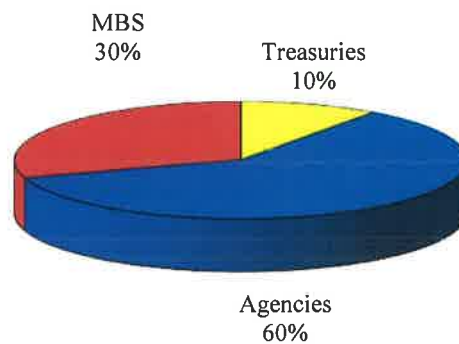
Portfolio Composition
April 2018

Security Type	Current 4/30/2018	Current Mix	Goal 6/30/2018	Goal Mix
Cash/ Liquidity	205	2%	0	0%
US Treasury	1,500	12%	1,226	10%
Agencies	7,796	64%	7,356	60%
Bullet Maturities	750	10%	1,471	20%
Callables	7,046	90%	5,885	80%
Floater	0	0%	0	0%
MBS	2,653	22%	3,678	30%
Floater	414	16%	1,471	40%
CMO	2,239	84%	2,207	60%
Pass Through		0%	0	0%
Municipals	0	0%	0	0%
Taxable		0%	0	100%
Tax Free		0%	0	0%
TOTAL	12,154	100%	12,260	100%

**Security by Type
(Actual)**



**Security by Type
(Goal)**





STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT

MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD
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MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner
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Department of Public Safety
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Department of Treasury

JIM HOOD, Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
LAURA D. JACKSON, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration
GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mississippi Tort Claims Board
FROM: Steve Milner
DATE: May 10, 2018
RE: Loss Control Report

Since the last Board Meeting, loss control services for the Tort Claims Board include:

- 4 Ride a Longs
- 22 State Property/Leased Property Inspections
- 3 Defensive Driving Class
- 5 Accident Investigations
- 2 Risk Management Consultations
- 1 Follow Up Risk Management Assessment



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT

MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD
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LAURA D. JACKSON, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration
GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mississippi Tort Claims Board
FROM: Lea Ann McElroy
DATE: May 10, 2018
RE: Additions to Defense Attorney List

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of (3) attorneys for inclusion on Defense Attorney List

Honorable Bo R. Brock
Brock Deaton Law Firm
Tupelo, Mississippi 38803

Honorable R. Gordon Sproule, Jr.
Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP
Hinds County, Mississippi

Honorable Paul B. Watkins, Jr.
Mayo Mallette, PLLC
Oxford, Mississippi 38655

Brock Deaton Law Firm
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

2187 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
Post Office Box 2757
Tupelo, Mississippi 38803-2757
Telephone: 662-844-2055
Facsimile: 662-840-6039

CHRIS H. DEATON
chris@deatonlawfirm.net
Also admitted in Tennessee

March 20, 2018

844

Mr. Bruce Donaldson
Claims Manager
Mississippi Tort Claims Board
Post Office Box 267
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Bruce:

Enclosed please find the resume of my law partner, Bo R. Brock. Bo and I are requesting that Bo be considered for approval to the Mississippi Tort Claims Board panel of attorneys. Bo has been working in insurance defense in my firm for over ten years. He is the primary litigator of bodily injury claims in the firm and has extensive experience in the type matters that the Tort Claims Board encounters.

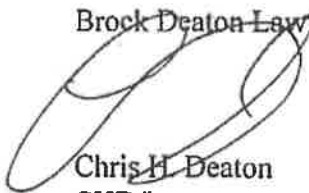
Bo is in good standing with the Mississippi Bar Association.

We would appreciate Bo being considered for appointment.

If there is any additional information Bo or I can provide to you or the Board please just let us know.

Cordially,

Brock Deaton Law Firm



Chris H. Deaton
CHD/jr
Enclosure

Bo R. Brock, Esq., Brock Deaton Law Firm

Objective	To be considered for, and added to, the Mississippi Tort Claims Board approved list of defense attorneys.	
Summary of Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admitted to practice in all State and Federal Courts, Mississippi• Admitted to practice in United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit• Eleven years experience as insurance defense litigator in Mississippi• Numerous jury and bench trials to conclusion with defense and other favorable verdicts	
Professional Experience	Brock Deaton Law Firm, Tupelo, MS	
	<i>Partner</i>	February 2007 – Present
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with Chris Deaton since January 2013• Obtained numerous defense verdicts in jury and bench trials• Successful dispositive motion practice, including reported Mississippi Supreme Court cases• Civil litigation (state and federal courts)• Estate and guardianship practice as related to insurance defense• Insurance defense litigation	
	Greer, Russell, Dent & Leathers, Tupelo, MS	
	<i>Law Clerk / Associate Attorney</i>	May 2004 – January 2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law Clerk throughout law school• Civil litigation (state and federal courts)• Estate and guardianship practice• Insurance litigation• Workers compensation• Wills and estates• Products liability	
	B & M Construction, New Albany, MS	
	<i>Owner and Operator</i>	January 2000 – September 2003
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed numerous simultaneous jobs• Managed open credit accounts with suppliers• Maintained all business records• Responsible for client relations• Managed employees• Performed custom work for clients	
Education	Juris Doctor, University of Mississippi	May 2006
	Bachelor of Accountancy, University of Mississippi	
	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	May 2003
Interests and Activities	Other than family, I am an avid outdoorsman and enjoy hunting, fishing, gunsmithing, competitive shooting on a national level, water sports, and training and competing with Labrador Retrievers.	
References	Available upon request	



THREE PROTECTIVE CENTER
2801 HWY 280 S, SUITE 200
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35223-2484

T 205 251 1193
F 205 251 1256
HUIELAW.COM

Direct Dial: (205) 297-8865
Email: gsproule@huielaw.com

April 9, 2018

Lea Ann McElroy, Administrator
Mississippi Tort Claims Board
P.O. Box 267
Jackson, MS 39205-0267

**RE: R. Gordon Sproule, Jr.
MS Bar Number: 103736**

Dear Ms. McElroy:

Per your request, I have enclosed my resume, as well as a Letter of Good Standing from the Mississippi Bar. I would ask that you add my name to the Tort Claims Approved Attorney Register. If you have any questions on this matter, my contact information is listed above. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

HUIE, FERNAMBUCQ & STEWART, LLP

By: R. Gordon Sproule, Jr.

RGS/dsg
Enclosures

**Gordon Sproule | Partner**

P: 205.297.8865

E: gsproule@huielaw.com

Gordon leaves no stone unturned. From the smallest detail to the biggest arguments, Gordon looks for every advantage for his clients. Whether he is preparing and researching on his own, or working as a team, he brings unwavering professionalism and poise to every facet of a defense case.

Since 1996, Gordon has served as lead counsel garnering success in numerous high exposure product liability and nursing home jury trials. He represents automobile manufacturers and distributors in both product liability and warranty cases throughout the Southeast where he has served as lead trial and coordinating counsel in Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina. All across Alabama, he represents nursing homes in medical malpractice and premises liability cases. His passion and concern for his clients can be seen in the many client relationships he has developed over the years. For Gordon, hard work is the only path to success and every challenge becomes another problem-solving opportunity and a chance to show his clients how far he is willing to go for them.

In his free time, Gordon enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Tracy, and supporting their two children in competitive sports and activities. Gordon and Tracy also volunteer their time to numerous charitable causes.

Gordon earned his BS from Vanderbilt University and his JD from Georgia State College of Law.

PRACTICE AREAS

Automotive Litigation
Insurance Coverage & Defense
Medical Malpractice
Nursing Home Litigation
Premises Liability
Product Liability
Professional Liability

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Alabama State Bar - 1996
Georgia State Bar - 1996
Mississippi State Bar - 2011

MEMBERSHIPS

Alabama Defense Lawyers Association
Birmingham Bar Association
Defense Research Institute
International Association of Defense Counsel

DISTINCTIONS / CONTRIBUTIONS

- Listed by The Best Lawyers in America for Product Liability Litigation - Defendants since 2014
- Listed by Super Lawyers (2010, 2015-2017)
- Speaking engagements at several trial strategy seminars
- Author of "Desk Reference of Operating Procedures and General Economics of Law," an article pertaining to small and medium-size firms and a quarterly update on professional malpractice issues



THE MISSISSIPPI BAR

Post Office Box 2168
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2168
Telephone (601) 948-4471
Fax (601) 355-8635
E-Mail info@msbar.org
Website www.msbar.org

Letter of Good Standing

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As of the date below, the attorney named is a member in good standing of The Mississippi Bar on **Active** status.

Robert Gordon Sproule, Jr., Mississippi Bar Identification Number **(103736)** was admitted to practice law, **February 15, 2011**.

Amy S. Ward
Membership Coordinator

Date 04/04/2018



PAUL B. WATKINS, JR.
pwatkins@mayomallette.com
Direct: (662) 513-4900

May 9, 2018

Via Email

Lee Ann McElroy, Administrator
MS Tort Claims Board
Post Office Box 267
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0267

RE: Tort Claims Board Approved Attorney Register

Dear Ms. McElroy:

I write to seek appointment as an approved attorney for the Mississippi Tort Claims Board. I graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2006 as the top graduate in my class. I joined Mayo Mallette PLLC immediately after law school, and I became a partner in the firm in January 2012. Under the guidance of my now-partners Cal Mayo and Pope Mallette, I have assisted in the defense of numerous tort claims, federal civil rights actions, and employment law claims on behalf of State agencies and institutions of higher learning.

I also represent the City of Oxford and the Oxford School District in all their legal affairs, and I stay well-informed on changes in the law related to the Tort Claims Act, employment matters, and other issues affecting governmental entities in the State of Mississippi. I believe I am well qualified to be an approved attorney on the Tort Claims Board's Approved Attorney Register, and I am willing to work for the Board's designated rates and under its designated billing guidelines.

I have enclosed a current resume. I have also requested a letter of good standing from the Mississippi Bar, and I will forward that letter as soon as I receive it. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MAYO MALLETTE PLLC


Paul B. Watkins, Jr.

PAUL B. WATKINS, JR.

5 University Office Park
2094 Old Taylor Road
Oxford, Mississippi 38655
Direct: (662) 513-4900
pwatkins@mayomallette.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MAYO MALLETTE PLLC (September 2006-present)

Oxford, Mississippi

Employment, Higher Education, Complex Tort and Commercial Litigation; School Law; Municipal Law; Land Use Law

EDUCATION

University of Mississippi School of Law, Juris Doctor (2006)

Oxford, Mississippi

Summa Cum Laude, Top Graduate

University of Mississippi, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (2003)

Oxford, Mississippi

Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Vicksburg High School (1999)

Vicksburg, Mississippi

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND HONORS

Mississippi Municipal Attorneys Association

Mississippi Council of School Board Attorneys

National Council of School Board Attorneys

Mississippi Bar

Board of Commissioners, 2016-18

Lafayette County Bar Association

William Keady Chapter, American Inns of Court



THE MISSISSIPPI BAR

Post Office Box 2168
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2168
Telephone (601) 948-4471
Fax (601) 355-8635
E-Mail info@msbar.org
Website www.msbar.org

Letter of Good Standing

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As of the date below, the attorney named is a member in good standing of The Mississippi Bar on **Active** status.

Paul Bowie Watkins, Jr., Mississippi Bar Identification Number **(102348)** was admitted to practice law, **September 28, 2006**.

Amy S. Ward
Membership Records Coordinator

Date 05/10/2018





STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT

MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD
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Insurance Department
MARSHALL L. FISHER, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
LYNN FITCH, Treasurer
Department of Treasury

JIM HOOD, Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
LAURA D. JACKSON, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration
GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mississippi Tort Claims Board
FROM: Lea Ann McElroy
DATE: May 10, 2018
RE: Political Subdivisions – Certificates of Coverage

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of 18 political subdivisions shown on attached list.

MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Political Subdivisions Recommended for Renewal of Certificate of Coverage

Alphaba, Cockrum, Ingrams Mill Volunteer Fire Departments

Bridgetown Volunteer Fire Department

Carroll County Fire

East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department

Eudora Volunteer Fire Department

Harrison County School District

Longview Fire Department

Mississippi Levee Commissioners

Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan (Municipalities)

Municipal Energy Agency of Mississippi

Municipal Gas Authority of Mississippi

Morton Fire Department

Oktibbeha County Central Drainage District

Region I Mental Health Center

Sharkey-Issaquena Community Hospital

Southeast Mississippi Air Ambulance

Southwest Madison Fire District

Winston County Volunteer Fire Department

Total 18